

I sincerely thank the school for their contribution to the Norwood community, and I look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF EXETER BOROUGH POLICE CHIEF JOHN "MAXIE" MCNEIL FOR FORTY-ONE YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Exeter, Pennsylvania's Police Chief John "Maxie" McNeil, as he celebrates his retirement from an extensive career in law enforcement. Chief McNeil will be honored by friends and family on March 5, 2016. For forty-one years, Chief McNeil dedicated his life to ensuring the safety and welfare of the people of Exeter, thirty-two years as police chief.

Chief McNeil led his department with dedication, honesty, and integrity. Over the years, he guided his beloved police department from a small town force into a skilled and mobile law enforcement agency capable of providing safety and security to the residents of a changing Exeter. Under his leadership, he has helped make Exeter and the surrounding communities a safer place for everyone.

I am grateful for Chief McNeil and the Exeter Police Department for their dedicated service. These courageous individuals face each moment not knowing for certain of the peril that may wait with the next challenge of the job. Yet they carry on, made strong by a resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, defend what is dear to us, including our loved ones, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude for standing as a shield from harm.

It is an honor to recognize John for his contribution to the safety of his community. I am immensely thankful for his many contributions to the security of Exeter throughout his long career of public service. I wish him all the best in retirement.

DANA CLEMENT CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Clement for being named the 2015 Child Advocate of the Year at the Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Annual Volunteer Celebration.

The non-profit agency, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, aims to serve as many children within their community as possible. Their mission is to stop child abuse in its tracks and help give these children a voice. The 200 trained volunteers they have make it possible to help serve more than 400 kids on a monthly basis. Dana is a critical volunteer for this agency thanks to her dedication through her time, energy and resources. We are so proud of Dana for helping to serve these kids

through her love and positive attitude. Thank you for making the community of Fort Bend a safer place for its residents.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dana Clement for being named Child Advocate of the Year. We appreciate all of her selfless and hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE GATHERING PLACE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Gathering Place in Brunswick, Georgia and to congratulate them on their 35th anniversary.

Started by college students from the University of Georgia in 1979, this year marks the 35th anniversary that The Gathering Place has served the spiritual growth and development of youth in Glynn County.

The Gathering Place was originally known as "Sunday Night Live at 8:45," and after 2 successful summers of singing, skits, and messages about Jesus, the college students expanded the program and officially founded The Gathering Place in June, 1981.

The Gathering Place has expanded since 1981 developing into a year round leadership development youth ministry with a highly diverse group of attendees. Beginning with around 100 participants, The Gathering Place now has approximately 1,000 people attending "The Main Event," taking place each summer night which includes lights, music, videos, gifts, speakers, and more.

The ministry of The Gathering Place has accomplished major spiritual achievements in the youth of coastal Georgia as the organization's goal is to reach students with the word of Jesus Christ, equip them to be Christian leaders, and to then send the students to spiritually impact their local communities.

I am thankful to have The Gathering Place in the First Congressional District of Georgia and am proud to recognize the impact that it is making in young Georgians' lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN MATTHEWS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a respected advocate and relentless fighter for public education in my district. For nearly half a century, John Matthews has been at the helm of Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI), steering the union through such volatile events as the 1976 teachers' strike, the recent public uprising against Act 10 and everything in between.

It is a testament to John's work and what his union has continually done for them that in November, Madison teachers voted overwhelmingly to recertify their union.

Today, when a pregnant teacher does not have to resign her job as her pregnancy be-

gins to show—something she once had to do in Wisconsin—she can credit John, who successfully fought that policy all the way to the Supreme Court in 1971. That was precisely the kind of battle and victory he relished.

John's career began as an English and history teacher in his native state of Montana, where his grandfather was a Supreme Court justice. He immediately became involved in his union and started, as he puts it, "raising a little hell," in contract negotiations over health insurance. Six years later, he was in the middle of a primary race to serve in the Montana House of Representatives when he withdrew his candidacy because he was offered the opportunity to pursue his true passion as executive director of Madison Teachers Inc. (And no one who knows John will be surprised to hear—he won that race anyway).

At that time in 1968, MTI had 900 members—it now has more than 4,000. Other victories John secured on behalf of the teachers and other educational workers he represents included the right to take time off for their religious holidays. In 1976, he led workers in a teachers' strike that cemented his reputation as a fierce advocate and fighter on behalf of the people and causes he represents. As Capital Times Editor Emeritus Dave Zweifel put it when John's retirement was announced: "No one I've known has been more committed to public education and what it means to American democracy than Matthews." He not only stood up for his members, he served the children and families of our community sitting on the board of such groups as Fair Wisconsin, Citizens Against Handgun Violence, Fighting Bob Fest, the Social Justice Center and the Citizens Utility Board.

Yet John seeks to meet and converse with opponents in an open and friendly fashion, making regular lunch or coffee dates with adversaries. The day former Madison Schools Superintendent Art Rainwater stepped into that job, he phoned John right away that morning to talk about building bridges and asked when they could get together. John quickly replied: "How about noon?" In articles announcing his planned January 2016 retirement, glowing quotes of praise for his work came as frequently from his adversaries as from his allies. Anyone who has worked with him also knows him to be a caring, warm friend with a great wit and deep dedication to his colleagues and friends.

It is an honor to recognize five decades of dedication, passion and advocacy in John's career with MTI. Anyone who knows John will not be at all surprised to hear that when asked by reporters what he plans to do in his retirement, he answered that he would remain committed to social justice issues and helping people. After all, it's what he's been doing for the past 50 years.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINA PANTHERS QUARTERBACK CAM NEWTON FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolina Panthers Quarterback Cam